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Human Rights Commission Minutes 09/19/2003

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES-FINAL
SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

IN ATTENDANCE

Cecilia Akuffo
 Sheri Baron
 Marliisa Brigggett
 Sue McHugh
 Nick Minton
 Nancy Rhoads
 Bill Shea
 Jim Webster

ABSENT

Christine Carney
 Christine Deshler
 Kim Lam
 Kevin McGann
 Nancy Sweeney

Sheri Baron called the meeting of the Human Rights Commission to order at 8:07 PM at the Jefferson-Cutter House.

REVIEW MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the August minutes with these corrections:

- Add date
- Correct misspellings

OPEN SESSION FOR VISITORS

- 1) Jean Hopkins requested the endorsement and/or help of the AHRC regarding:
 - pay salaries of people in Arlington, believes fair labor practices should be better and that can't believe some people are worth 10 times more than others.
 - proposes neighborhood care homes to help care for neighbors as a non-permanent living situation (see attached addendum).

Ms. Hopkins has spoken to both the Commission on Disability and Elder Services, yet neither showed any interest. Ms. McHugh proposed to talk about this at the next meeting. Mr. Minton suggested it may be a possible warrant article and possibly could be funded by grants.

- 2) Jill Lewis reported that at mid to end October the Freedom Schooner Amistad visits Boston. Her church is trying to set up "Neighborhood Conversations on Race" through hosting neighborhood discussions. Ms. Lewis brought it to the Commission's attention to see if there was interest in the Commission doing something. Information from Ms. Lewis' church e-mail: AMISTAD TO BOSTON invites You to host: "A Neighborhood Conversation on Race – A Talk worth Having".

COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

No new complaints or incidents were reported this month.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Policies and Procedures: There was nothing to report.
- Education: There was nothing to report.
- Dialogues/Book Groups: A next dialogue proposal is needed – anybody with ideas contact Marliisa Brigggett. Help is needed selling books at the next Evening with the Author, Andrew Zantar "Have No Fear", October 22, 2003, 7:30pm-9:00pm at the Lesley Ellis School.

- **Rapid Response/ Publicity:** Sheri Baron commented that the AHRC needs to decide in its' commitment to the response. The sub-committee members are:
Sheri Baron
Cecilia Akuffo
Nancy Sweeney
Sheri Baron will get the name and number of the Somerville Rapid Response to Mary Ann Sullivan to invite them to one of the AHRC meetings to talk about their program.
- **New member:** The sub-committee members are:
Nick Minton
Cecilia Akuffo
Christine Deshler
They will present at the next meeting, but will e-mail their ideas out to the Commissioners before the next meeting.
- **Town Day:** Nick Minton reported it was a nice day and the raffle did well. Names were collected for the mailing list. It would be better next year to get restaurant donations for the gift certificates instead of budgeting the money. The AHRC paid \$250.00 for gift certificates; Town Day sold \$320.00 chances, the AHRC made \$70.00. The winner: Chris Salas (781) 646-2540.
- **Fund-raising:** The discount card has been put on hold for now.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nancy Rhoads reported that it would be a couple of months before finding out our participation in the No Place for Hate program. The bulk of the work is coordinating, and there is a mandatory yearly recertification. The Selectmen would have to endorse. There are signs that would be placed at the borders of Arlington showing its involvement in the program.
- October is Diversity Month with many events planned (see attached addendum). All Commissioners should try to attend as many events as possible.
- The Commissioners discussed Bill No. 571 "an Act requiring the inclusion of certain civil rights offense information in the statewide domestic violence record keeping system"(see attached addendum). The Commissioners accepted to endorse this act and write a letter to Chief Ryan stating the endorsement. Ms. Briggett suggested putting out signature cards at upcoming events to get others to support this act.
- Ms. Briggett suggested for important flyers/pass-outs use a graphic designer to make the flyers more appealing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.